

# CITY PAGES

## OMINOUS SKIES OVER EDUCATION

Minnesota's teaching ranks  
are plummeting, leaving  
rural schools near crisis





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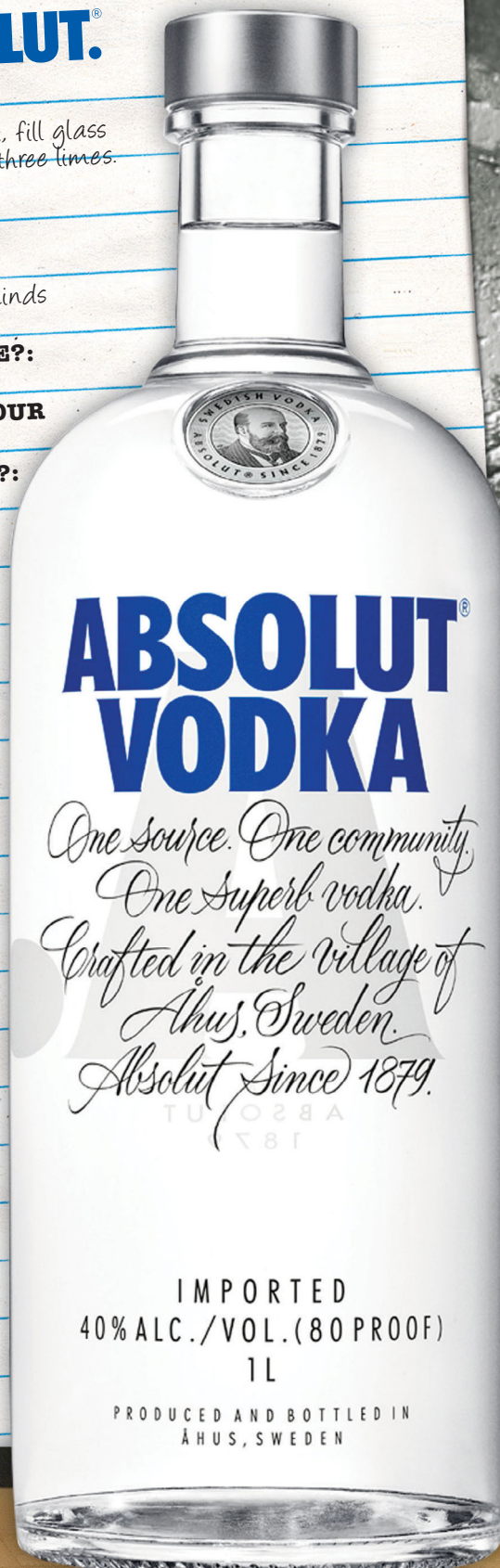
**MOST ANNOYING THING SOMEONE CAN DO TO GET YOUR ATTENTION FOR A DRINK:** Throw objects

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Minnesota's teaching ranks are plummeting,  
leaving rural schools near crisis.

By Marisa Comeau-Kerege

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### THE SHORTLIST



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LISA PERSSON

### THE STAT SHEET

**37,374**

Minneapolis' population growth since 2010, explaining why homebuyers are facing bidding wars for houses.

**191,628**

Metro population growth since 2010, explaining why we need more light rail before our freeways become Walmart parking lots.

**50th**

Wisconsin's dead-last finish among states in new business start-ups for the third year in a row. Behold the miracle of cutting taxes and killing regulations.

**4**

Number of Planned Parenthood clinics closing in Iowa after the state barred Medicaid patients from using them.

**"Little-known fact: Lake Calhoun is filled entirely with the sweat droplets of jogging white ladies."**

Reader Duane Joseph responds to "A letter from John C. Calhoun to Minneapolis about this lake of yours," at [citypages.com](http://citypages.com).

### THE FEAR QUOTIENT

**FOR A MIDWESTERN** hunting state, Minnesota is lacking in the manliest fashion accessory of all: guns. The state ranks a pathetic 31st in gun ownership per capita.

It appears we missed out on the record sales during the reign of Obama, who was coming to take our guns, then forgot. Though ownership per household has declined for decades, the buying binge was fueled by those who stockpile: sportsmen and collectors, bad guys, and men afraid of the world.

Now our chance to play catch-up may be lost. Following Trump's assumption of the throne, sales have plummeted. Which makes sense. Historically speaking, orange presidents are less likely to take our guns than black ones.

### POPULAR STORIES AT CITYPAGES.COM

The Hard Life on Lake Street: Inside Minneapolis' **SEX-WORK HUB**

Minnesota  
petting zoo/slaughterhouse  
**FUR-EVER WILD** still in business,  
somehow

**ADRIAN PETERSON** puts  
most Eden Prairie house imaginable  
on the market

Spotted: Minneapolis **'TINY DOOR'**  
**VANDAL** apparently caught  
in the act

Charges: **SCOTT LINDGREN**  
carved 'snitch' into teen,  
posted kidnapping, torture  
on Snapchat



# GET ON OUR LAWN

City leaders are welcoming a skatepark to downtown Minneapolis



There's a dead spot in the Warehouse District.

No one lives where the highway meets Target Field's parking garages, under the skyway at North Second Avenue and North Fourth Street. Few businesses bring foot traffic. In the evenings, police keep a sharp eye on the people who crowd the strip of sidewalk because there's nowhere else to sit.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) owns this vacant lot, but hasn't known what to do with it for years. Downtown Minneapolis business associations couldn't find anyone willing to turn it into something useful.

Until Midwest Skateboarding Alliance came along.

A plan for a skate park and dog run near Target Field

The alliance is a group of smart and sensible skateboarding advocates led by epidemiologist Brenda Hoppe. Its goal is to build skateparks and end the stereotype of skateboarding as a public nuisance.

When Hoppe approached the Downtown Improvement District with the idea of putting a skatepark right in the thick of downtown Minneapolis, the empty parcel was the first place that came to mind for urban design director Ben Shardlow.

"It could be a really good fit, because it's a little gritty," Shardlow says. "It would help change the dialogue about skateboarding happening downtown in areas where it's not allowed and considered a nuisance behavior because it's leading to property destruction. And to change the dialogue from, 'You kids get off our lawn,' to 'Go over there. There's a really nice skate park over there. It's more fun than this granite bench.'"

Landscape architecture firm Damon Farber drew up concept plans, pro bono, and the alliance started meeting with MnDOT, police, and business groups. The project was described as an opportunity to include green space, picnic tables, a dog

run, and recreational space for Youthlink, a homeless youth service center that doesn't have much to do for fun nearby.

"It also seems like a really fun opportunity on the horizon as we host the X Games this summer and next," Shardlow says. "Everyone acknowledges that our existing skateparks are not stellar. This has the potential to shape up to be a really great project to address that."

Thomas Whitlock, president of Damon Farber, says there's much support. His company is located across the street from the proposed site. Whitlock says he's noticed a ton of dog-walkers who could use a designated park. The street might be perfect for food trucks, he adds, and giving people a place to sit could enhance the gameday experience of Twins fans.

"It could be a space where people could get out and actually feel the sun on their face," Whitlock says. "Get something to eat and get outside their office during the lunch hour. It enhances the businesses."

Midwest Skating Alliance still needs to secure funding — the park is estimated to cost \$440,000 — and deal with city land-use regulations. But if all goes well, construction could begin next year. —SUSAN DU

MAY 18

**TIM MAHONEY**

MAY 25

**CHRIS HAWKEY**

JUNE 1

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JUNE 8

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# Dear Erik

Congressman Paulsen responds to his worried constituents

**L**ast week GOP U.S. Rep. Erik Paulsen picked up a Democratic challenger: Dean Phillips, heir to the Phillips liquor brand and grandson to the nationally syndicated advice columnist Dear Abby. Not unlike Dear Abby, Paulsen's been getting a lot of questions by mail lately.

## Dear Congressman Paulsen,

We don't see you around here much anymore, but I know how busy the people's work must keep you! I write because I think you made a mistake when you voted in support of the American Health Care Act. I myself am a physician — with “one foot firmly on the golf course,” my wife says — and I worry about the effect this plan will have on my lower-income patients, facing less-certain retirements. Won't you reconsider?

SINCERELY, UNEASY IN EDEN PRAIRIE

## Dear Uneasy,

It is so wonderful to hear from a constituent. Your thoughtful letter is a reminder of the people I came to Washington to serve. Minnesotans deserve access to the world's best health care, at affordable rates, without exceptions, and I promise you, personally, I will not rest until they get it.

SINCERELY, CONGRESSMAN ERIK PAULSEN

## Dear Rep. Paulsen,

I teach high school math. Most of my students have already grasped that if I say, “multiply x by y to find z,” they can't solve for z if they don't know either of the other two variables. You guys voted this health care bill through before the Congressional Budget Office could calculate how many Americans will lose health insurance — 10 million? 14 million? — and how much it

will cost the rest of us to keep them alive. (Assuming that's the plan.) If you were my students turning in homework, you'd all get an ‘I’ for ‘incomplete.’

SINCERELY, ASKING WHY IN WAYZATA

## Dear Asking Why,

What a wonderful reminder of the people I came to Washington to serve. I will not rest until Minnesotans have greater access to the world's best health care, at affordable rates, without exceptions. I promise.

SINCERELY, CONGRESSMAN ERIK PAULSEN

## Dear Mr. Paulsen,

This is the first time I've ever written one of my elected officials. Usually, I don't trust any politician farther than I can throw him. Your vote for Trumpcare reminded me why. I work as an independent contractor in your district. I make just enough money to make ends meet and afford cheap-o insurance through MNsure. If my back gives out again, my yearly deductible's going to be three times as high. My mom, she's worried sick, which sucks because she can't afford to get sick. And for what? So some rich guys could get a little tax break on their investments? You'd better have some answers.

SINCERELY, BROKE IN BROOKLYN PARK

## Dear Broke,

I promise to you, I will not rest until Minnesotans have access to the world's best health care, at affordable rates. I came to Washington to serve people like you.

SINCERELY, CONGRESSMAN ERIK PAULSEN

## Dear Erik,

I love how guys like you, in a state like Minnesota, assume you can get away with

voting for a disaster because we've got people covered. If we have a Republican governor, they'll shred MinnesotaCare like Trump's tax files, flush MNsure down the toilet, and make poor, sick people buy insurance from one of those “high-risk pools.” I'm already saving up money to donate to Dean Phillips. I'll donate to Wilson Phillips if it means getting rid of you. How about I hold your head underwater in a high-risk pool?

SINCERELY, MOTIVATED IN MINNETONKA

## Dear Motivated,

I personally will not rest until the greatest, most affordable access to the world's best health care is available for the wonderful people I came to Washington to serve.

SINCERELY, CONGRESSMAN ERIK PAULSEN

## Hey You Piece of Shit,

I saw that letter you sent to my son, “Broke.” He's nicer than I am. I'm 55, been working for the same company 30 years, and have a chronic condition (none of your goddamn business, that's what). I like my job fine. I'm really good at it. But why should I trust the company owner any more than I trust thieves like you? Your bill means he can shift more of the burden on me, maybe set up a “lifetime maximum” for my expenses. Or he'll get rid of our insurance altogether. Wheee! If that happens I'll be broke in a couple years, and dead in a few more. My only comfort is picturing you reading this sitting on the shiniest, sharpest medical device you can find. See you in hell, hopefully soon.

SINCERELY, PISSED IN PLYMOUTH

## Dear Pissed,

It is so great to hear from a constituent.

SINCERELY, CONGRESSMAN ERIK PAULSEN



Mike Mullen

## Dear My Pal Erik,

Good day, old sport! What a time to be alive! The wife and I are pleased as punch with these latest developments you and Donald have seen to. High time we stopped paying so much in taxes for those investment gains we work ever so hard to realize. Just one problem: I am having trouble spending all this money. I've replaced my golf clubs, got a new boat, another cabin, a new Cadillac, put all three kids through private colleges. The wife is on her third face. What am I supposed to do with the rest?

SINCERELY, TORMENTED IN ORONO

## Dear Tormented,

Oh thank God, I thought all these letters were going to be the same. For starters, let's get you maxed out on my re-election campaign. There's \$5,200 gone. And there are 217 of us Republicans who took that vote; try spreading it around. (Folks say a lot of us are going to have tough elections next year.) Anyway, now that I know you've got money, let me know if there's anything I can do for your bank account.

SINCERELY, YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND

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MAY 29



**THE STEELES**  
MAY 30



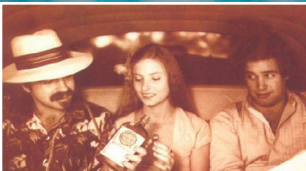
**CHRIS POTTER  
QUARTET**  
MAY 31



**CARL PALMER'S  
ELP LEGACY**  
JUNE 1

**SHEMEKIA  
COPELAND**

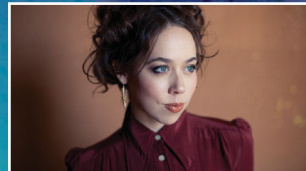
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JUNE 2



**OTTMAR LIEBERT  
& LUNA NEGRA**  
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**SARAH JAROSZ**  
JUNE 6-7



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ESCOVEDO BAND**  
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When students file in at the sound of the school bell in Chokio, Minnesota, they have no idea how much their teachers and administrators are trying to hold things together.

The Chokio-Alberta School District, nestled in the agricultural belt 50 miles east of the South Dakota border, serves two rural communities with a combined population of just under 500. The district has about 150 students.

This past year, when Superintendent David Baukol hired Shaun McNally to teach 7th-12th grade science, he felt relief. A teacher shortage has left districts across the state scrambling to fill positions in math, science, technology, and special education, especially in rural areas.

But with only one science teacher for a combined middle-high school of 73 students, Baukol doesn't know what he will do if McNally ever leaves. He was the only person to apply when the job was posted last year, which doesn't breed confidence in anyone else coming along soon.

"We're just barely holding on by a thread," says Baukol. "If we had not had this science teacher apply, we would have been in dire straits. What would we have done without a science department?"

Joe Brown, superintendent of the Fairmont school district, sees the same ominous skies. Located along the Iowa border, Fairmont perhaps qualifies as a metropolis for rural Minnesota, with a population of just over 10,000.

Ten years ago, when an elementary teaching position would open in the district, at least 100 applications would arrive.

Two years ago, when three elementary teaching posts opened, only five people applied.

Last year, when a position in the fifth grade became vacant, not a single teacher showed interest. Brown had to recruit one from another district, plying her with higher pay and adjusted benefits to make Fairmont enticing.

The shortage promises to one day push rural districts to the edge of survival, fears Alan Niemann, superintendent of the tiny Ashby public school district in western Minnesota. "If we were not able to find quality teachers in all of the subject areas, it would be a challenge for us to stay viable."

# Ominous Skies Over Education

MINNESOTA'S TEACHING RANKS ARE PLUMMETING, LEAVING RURAL SCHOOLS NEAR CRISIS



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BRETT RYDER



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KIM DONGSEON

## No Respect

The beginning of the profession's decline is generally pinpointed to 1983, the year the Reagan administration released "A Nation at Risk," a report asserting that America's public education system was failing.

Until then, teachers were largely viewed as wholesome servants, in the company of nurses, doctors, and firefighters. But the report seemed to show that teachers shined no more. Japan, an emerging economic power of the time, was sailing past us in math and science, a threat to our sense of global supremacy.

So commenced a three-decade rampage of new laws, new tests, impressive new mountains of rules and regulations. Some of it worked. Most of it didn't.

And who could be to blame? Teachers, of course.

The vilification escalated with the passing years. The idea of the wholesome servant was out. In was a reputation of lazy obstructionist. Teachers came to be viewed through the same lens of scorn as congressmen and DMV clerks. This was no one's dream job.

During her 34 years in education, Sherri Broderius has watched respect for the field drop to new lows every year. The superintendent of the Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City schools sees kids "growing up all their life hearing that whenever something goes wrong, it's that damn school's rules, it's those damn teachers, it's the principals."

Adds Gwen Carman, superintendent of the Carlton schools: "The whole profession of teaching is not as highly regarded as it used to be. I think it is extremely unfortunate that teachers have to experience so much criticism when it's a profession that is so fundamentally important."

What the critics often fail to acknowledge are the economic and other forces

that have changed the profession. By the time Reagan released his report, America's divorce rate was on the ascent, while working people's wages would see a 35-year stagnation. It amounted to a one-two punch on the traditional family. Where teachers once relied on mom and dad to have their backs at home, a sizable chunk of parents was now too harried, working too many jobs, or simply too beaten to be reliable allies anymore.

that have changed the profession.

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For the same pay and the same hours, teachers were required to play parent and social worker as well. Toss in a swelling immigrant population that struggled to master English, much less calculus, and the job became a worthy punishment for Sisyphus.

Today, it's an occupation where ceaseless criticism is the norm, and success seems untouchable. That's left veteran teachers to flee the field and college students to rechart career paths.

Take the second-grade charter school teacher who asks to remain anonymous to protect her job security. She's been thinking about leaving the profession.

At her school, most teachers get to work at 6:30 a.m. when the building opens. They usually don't leave until past 5 p.m., when it closes for the night. Yet parents' effort with their children's education often seems slender at best.

"I have a lot of parents that just don't care."

Add to it the notion that "those who can't do, teach," and it's no surprise that educating kids has lost its glimmer.

"When you continually criticize an institution, it doesn't encourage people to get into that profession," says Superintendent Brown.

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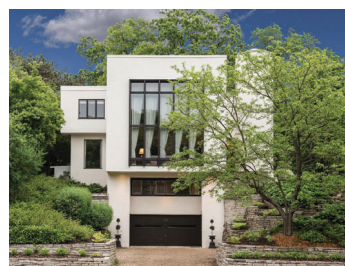
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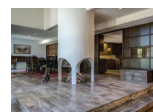
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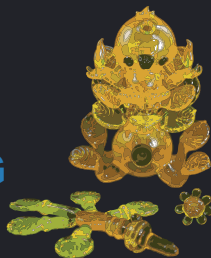
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# “When you continually criticize an institution, it doesn’t encourage people to get into that profession.”

## *At Least It Doesn't Pay Very Well*

For all this denigration, the bar to entry remains prohibitive. Start with the price of a college degree, which might be \$80,000 at a state school, or double that at a private one.

In Minnesota, you will be paying back those loans with a starting average salary of \$34,500 — less if you work in the countryside.

Salaries can rise to as high as \$90,000-plus, with a bonus of health plans that tend to be more generous than those in the private sector, and far more vacation time than most workers get.

But even the highest pay starts to dim when one considers the 10-hour workdays and the weekends correcting papers.

For someone teaching art or sociology, teaching may be the best option going. The same cannot be said of math, science, or technology, where one can fairly easily find better pay without having to hear about how you're the bane of American progress.

Austin Superintendent David Krenz tells the tale of three students who graduated from his district. They went on to earn college degrees in science and math, fully

intending to return home to teach. But they were snatched up by businesses that had no problem beating any offer Austin could summon.

Nor can education offer much job security. Many districts have endured years of constricting budgets. Contrary to the popular view of bloated bureaucracies, the fat was sliced long ago, says Philip Grant, superintendent of Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley Public Schools.

“Schools can only do so much to improve efficiency,” he says. “I’ve worked at a number of schools and I would be hard-pressed to find a case of blatant waste.”

This leaves teachers — particularly younger teachers — with a constant reminder that their jobs may soon vanish.

The problem is especially critical in rural districts. And while legislators demand districts execute educational miracles, they're usually loath to provide support.

“Right now we fall behind almost every year,” says James Hess, superintendent of the Bemidji schools. “Sometimes the Legislature has some money, and what do they propose to do with it? Give a tax cut. That’s not going to help us attract teachers. We need to value it and put our money where our mouth is.”

This year, Republicans are proposing

state spending growth at half the rate of inflation, essentially sentencing districts to financial trouble. Even Gov. Mark Dayton, known as a friend to education, is proposing 2 percent, still short of an inflation rate that’s leaped above 2 percent since October 2015.

So districts must turn to local tax levies. These can be hard sells in small-town Minnesota, where mining has slumped, crop prices have floundered, and even minimum wage jobs are hard to come by. At times, it’s like asking a man with a stone in his pocket to polish it into gold.

Grant says that in his district, 88 percent of his budget comes from the state. The remaining 12 percent largely comes from local taxes.

He sees small towns raising taxes to save their schools, even when it’s more efficient to merge with a nearby community. They can’t afford not to. Lose the local schools, and there’s a good chance you’ve launched the town’s death spiral.

“You see that happening in small districts that’ll do almost anything to keep their school going even though it’s not very efficient,” says Grant. “What does a small community have as an option? Those schools are such a centerpiece of those communities.”

## *Minnesota Unwelcomes You*

The state doesn’t make it any easier for new teachers to come to the rescue. Take Minnesota’s licensing program.

Applicants must pass the Teacher Licensure Exam, which consists of tests in math, writing, reading, pedagogy, and content specific to their field. In other words, you must not only demonstrate mastery of your field, but of areas you’ll never teach.

Those who can’t pass can try again and again until they do. In the meantime, the shortage blooms.

Mark Lundin, superintendent of Blackduck schools, cites a veteran kindergarten teacher who moved to Minnesota, only to be sabotaged by licensing requirements with no bearing on her job.

“She had taught... little ones for 20 years in another state. She had her master’s in it, and when she came to Minnesota to teach [kindergarten], she had to pass the Minnesota test, and part of that is college algebra,” says Lundin. “Now what rationale do you need to pass college algebra to work for that district?”



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The woman couldn't pass the algebra test. Minnesota accelerated its shortage. To circumvent the problem, districts have lowered their standards. When they can't find licensed teachers, Minnesota allows the hiring of experts who can teach under a variance license. Aides are also used, especially in areas like special education.

"I've worked at a number of schools and I'd be hard-pressed to find a case of blatant waste."

But with high turnover rates, these are stopgap solutions at best.

"They make it such a pain for people to get a license in Minnesota, most people just throw their hands up and say, 'No I'm not going to do that,'" says Lundin.

### The Bleak Road Forth

As the situation snowballs, school officials have gotten creative in stretching scant resources.

Austin Superintendent Krenz has found a way to pay for his teachers to get additional licenses so they can cover more subjects. It leaves him less at the mercy of new applicants, and makes for a more adjustable staff.

In Northfield, Superintendent Hillmann is trying to grow his own supply by identifying students who may someday make good teachers.

"Look at high school students that might be interested and get them involved," he says. "Look at starting a pre-internship program, similar to what they have in law enforcement and health care."

But none of this seems enough to alter an increasingly bleak future.

Take the charter school teacher weighing a change in careers. Much of her day is spent cracking down on behavioral problems, and she's exhausted by the workload.

"The teacher that I am is not the teacher I wanted to be," she says. "I wanted to be a more compassionate teacher and I wanted to be more loving and I wanted to be more caring, and I feel like that's not who I am anymore."

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# THE WATCHED POT

Tori Ramen's influential place in the evolution of ramen



The Torikotsu,  
a chicken noodle soup  
to rival Grandma's

SASHA LANDSKOV

BY MECCA BOS

**T**he stockpots are a constant source of worry. Jason Dorweiler is considering training a security camera on them, 24/7.

"Sometimes I have some of the guys who live close to here come over in the middle of the night and check them," he says. Perpetual stockpot observation is the inescapable life of a ramen chef.

It's also one reason Dorweiler decided to eschew pork ramen at his tiny ramen shop, Tori, in St. Paul. Because of the size of the pork bones, he says he'd have to have four pots going at any given time,

instead of just the two he needs for poultry stock. Two is plenty. These are 160-quart behemoths going all day, every day. If the stock runs low or runs out, he closes the shop. There's no other way to run a legit ramen shop.

And Tori is legit.

Dorweiler says he believes many — possibly even most — ramen shops are using a "kit." A kit that includes frozen soup bases, processed tare (seasoning), and noodles. All the shop has left to do is open the bags, heat, garnish, and sell. But many of those shortcuts include corn syrup, colorants, and preservatives.

So at Tori, they're choosing the slow-

foods way, the watched-pot way.

Growing up, Dorweiler's Korean mom made him dry ramen packs doctored with additions and toppings like kimchee, eggs, and green onions. It was his comfort food.

"Ramen" as we currently think of it, a glorious bowl of rich house-made stock with hand-pulled noodles, fat pork cutlets, golden-yolked egg, and a pink swirl of fish cake, is actually a relatively modern interpretation. Though its origins are debated (it's possibly a Chinese invention), ramen is simply noodles in soup. The dish became wildly popular only in the 1950s, when the technology for instant ramen noodles arrived. The ramen craze

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hit its peak along with other Japanese pop-culture fads in the '80s and beyond.

You might even say that curly noodles in a brick is the true "authentic" ramen, and any elaboration is the derivative progression. But what a progression it is.

Ramen came to the Twin Cities late. Some of us are still wading through the terminology and the varieties, but essentially a bowl of ramen has but four compo-





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Ramen on the assembly line

SASHA LANDSKOV

nents: stock, tare (flavorings), noodles, and toppings. In addition to those vigilantly watched stocks, Tori's toppings are largely what sets them apart.

Here, you can have a take on a Thai-style Tom Yum soup in a ramen bowl, an earthy assemblage of brown mushrooms, the fragrance of Thai basil, and almost disconcertingly robust pops of citrus, thanks to fried lime leaf and lime oil.

The Bali Bali goes almost Middle Eastern, with silky tahini and sesame seed, but the mouth-numbing zing of Szechuan pepper zaps your mouth out of complacency. Both are revelatory bowls of soup, ones that seem to keep changing. Consider that each has at least eight other additions besides those mentioned here. Think of a bowl of grown-up Lucky Charms, where each treasure is in fact a new flavor, texture, sensation. I've never had anything quite like it.

When I get Dorweiler on the phone to talk about these captivating bowls, he's maddeningly reserved. I'm eager to tease out his secrets, but he doesn't tip his poker hand much at all. Here's what I was able to ascertain:

Tori Ramen is zero waste. They use every little scrap of every little thing, which might explain the deep, soul-satisfying flavor of it.

Dorweiler always wanted to be a painter. Take one look at his bowls and it's easy to see how his art comes alive on the surface of a lake of soup.

He's also extremely honed in on the flavor spectrum of the Thai kitchen, taking special care to make sure everything has an element of salty, sour, and sweet. It tastes like an epiphany in the ramen bowl.

Though it's a challenge, Dorweiler's trying to source everything as locally as possible. Take for instance their use of burdock instead of bamboo, the former a wild-growing root that he'll forage when he has the time.

Perhaps most exciting, Tori Ramen is taking over the noodle-making enterprise of Canton Foods. Canton, for a long time, was the only local producer of handmade ramen noodles, and if you wanted them from somewhere closer than California, it's to Canton you would go. But the husband-and-wife team of Canton Noodles is retiring, and guess who's getting their equipment and knowledge? Tori Ramen.

Even the promise of Canton's equipment and knowhow would have many a chef gleefully singing from the ramen shop rafters,

but not Dorweiler. He just quietly tells me that he plans to start a specialty noodle company, as soon as he has the art of noodle making down pat, and as soon as he has the time. No other local ramen shop is making its own noodles for the entirety of the menu because it's too labor intensive. Dorweiler admits that early solo attempts were disastrous, so they've wisely turned to the experts.

Tiny Tori seats only a couple dozen diners at a time, and the format is designed to get you in and out, fast. Approach the bar, order and pay all in one motion, then wait. It only takes a few minutes for the bowl to arrive. And though there are only about 10 bowls on the menu at any given time, it feels like there are worlds to discover in each one.

In the Kor Dee Yuh, find fat fiery hunks of funky kimchee. The Torikotsu is a knee-wobbling chicken noodle soup to rival grandmother's. The Best Seller, which happens to be vegetarian, presents a demonstration of how to cull meatiness out of seaweeds, mushrooms, and fermented foods.

Be sure to request the house-made hot sauce where habanero, jalapeño, and Korean-style gochujang come together and are fermented. Apply with an eye-dropper's precision; the accompanying heat and flavor bomb in a couple of drops is quite simply mind-blowing.

At Tori Ramen, you get the idea that they are breaking through the ordinary progression of ramen culture, bucking expectations and putting pickled carrots and black garlic oil where fish cakes and ginger used to be.

Keep an eye on them. They'll have their eye on the pots. 



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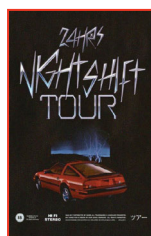
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 **SUN, JUNE 11 • 2pm**  
**THURS, JUNE 15 • 7pm**  
**FRI, JUNE 16 • 7:30pm**  
**SAT, JUNE 17 • 7:30pm**  
**SUN, JUNE 18 • 2pm**

**JUNE 2-18**



# A LIST

**FRIDAY** AniMinneapolis offers cosplay and fun **P. 24**

**SATURDAY** Enjoy a crawfish boil at Bent Brewstillery **P. 26**

**MONDAY** Twin Cities Fetish Week **P. 27**

## WEDNESDAY 5.24

### COMEDY

#### MARY MACK

ACME COMEDY CO.

"I like doing Memorial Day week because it's really laid-back," says Mary Mack of her upcoming gig at Acme Comedy Co. "It's the start of summer, a lot of people go up to their cabins here in Minnesota, but people will stay at the beginning of the week and come out to shows." As she sometimes does, Mack will bring her own feature act, this time a comic named Claudia Colgan. "I'm going to pull her up onstage with me sometimes because I think she's so great." Colgan will stay with Mack and her husband, fellow comic Tim Harmston. "We have another comic that just moved in, too, so it will be me, Tim, Claudia — Mike Lester is going to host, so I don't know if he needs a place to stay. It's going to be like a comedy commune here." Mack, it seems, may have stumbled onto a side business: a comedy bed and breakfast. "I don't want to run the breakfast part of a bed and breakfast unless breakfast is at noon. How about bed and brunch?" 18+. 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$15-\$18. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. **Through Saturday —P.F. WILSON**

### FESTIVAL

#### PARTY ON THE PLAZA

U.S. BANK STADIUM

One of the perks of the warmer seasons in the Twin Cities is that free outdoor festivals pop up everywhere. One such ongoing happening is Party on the Plaza. Even if you can't afford a ticket to the X Games or the Vikings, you can still hang out at the new stadium, as there will be weekly happy hours outside for the next four weeks. Each Wednesday, you'll find food and beverages for sale, and there will be lawn games for those who need to stretch their legs after a day at the office. The musical lineup includes Tim Mahoney (May 18), Chris Hawkey (May 25), Kat Perkins (June 1), and G.B. Leighton (June 8).



Light Grey Art Lab and the ASI team up to exhibit gorgeous images from Iceland.

CHRIS HAJNY

4:30 to 8 p.m. Free. 900 S. Fifth St., Minneapolis; 612-338-4537. **Through June 8 —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

### FILM

#### THE MADS: LIVE MOVIE-RIFFING WITH MST3K'S FRANK CONNIFF AND TRACE BEAULIEU

RIVERVIEW THEATER

Sometimes, bad movies need a little something extra in order to become so bad they're good. That's exactly what the crew of *Mystery Science Theater 3000* did on public access television and Comedy Central in the mid-'90s. This weekend, *MST3K*'s Frank Conniff (he also played the aptly named TV's Frank on the show) and co-founder Trace Beaulieu (who also starred as Dr. Clayton Forrester and the voice

of Crow T. Robot) will somehow manage to shine a turd. There will be a different crappy movie each night of this two-day engagement, and the mocking will be live, so expect some off-the-cuff laughs. There will also be a meet-and-greet before the show. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday. \$20/\$25 at the door. 3800 42nd Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-729-7369. **Through Thursday —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

### COMEDY

#### MARINA FRANKLIN

RICK BRONSON'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

"I try not to watch other comedians on purpose," says Marina Franklin. "I impersonate a lot, and part of my act is doing a lot of voices. Sometimes I can imitate specific comics quite well, so I try to stay out of the room so I don't lift anything by accident."

Franklin's easygoing manner is a hit with audiences. "I think it's just a part of being authentic," she states. "If you're not high energy in person, why would you be high energy onstage?" Franklin notes that off stage she is very easygoing. "People find me approachable and I think likable. I don't get upset about too many things." Her subtle nature also comes through in her comedy. "The thing I have to fight," she adds, "is being a sassy black comedian. When I started, there was lot of pressure to do that and I thought that's what audiences like. I can imitate that, but it's not who I am." 18+; 21+ later shows. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday; 9:45 p.m. Friday; 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; 9:30 p.m. Saturday. \$13-\$22. 408 E. Broadway, Mall of America, Bloomington; 952-858-8558. **Through Sunday —P.F. WILSON**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 ►



# FIRST AVENUE & 7th St entry

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## FEATURED SHOWS

CITY PAGES PRESENTS  
**RODRIGO Y GABRIELA**  
TENTH ANNIVERSARY TOUR  
W/ RYAN SHERIDAN  
FRI JUN 02  
FIRST AVENUE \$37 / 8PM DOORS / 18+

89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS  
**CLOUD CULT**  
NORTHROP \$30-\$40 / 7PM DOORS / ALL AGES  
FRI JUN 09

## UP NEXT FIRST AVENUE MAINROOM

RHYMESAYERS PRESENTS  
**SOUNDSET OFFICIAL BEFORE PARTY**  
WITH DJ ABILITIES, DJ TIIIIIIIP, PSYMN, DJ KEEZY, MIKE 2600, JUST NINE, ESPADA, VAUGHN SOLO, RAY MILLS, DJ DAN SPEAK  
HOSTED BY ALLAN KINGDOM, deM atlas, MR. PETER PARKER  
MAY 27

RHYMESAYERS PRESENTS  
**SOUNDSET OFFICIAL AFTER PARTY**  
WITH Z-TRIP, GET CRYPHY, BUTTA 45 DJs, HOSTED BY PROF  
MAY 28

**PRINCE**  
JUN 10  
**LET'S GO CRAZY IV**  
FT. DJ JAKE RUDH (TRANSMISSION)  
PROCEEDS GO TO HARVEST NETWORK OF SCHOOLS

89.3 THE CURRENT AND CITY PAGES PRESENT  
**POKEY LAFARGE**  
WITH LILLIE MAE  
JUN 15

CITY PAGES PRESENTS  
**RODRIGO Y GABRIELA: TENTH ANNIVERSARY TOUR**  
WITH RYAN SHERIDAN  
JUN 02

**FOREVER YOUNG PROM**  
90S AND 00S DANCE MUSIC  
YOU FORGOT YOU LOVED  
JUN 09

FIRST AVENUE, SMIRNOFF, 89.3 THE CURRENT, AND SWEETPEA & BLOWTORCH PRESENT  
**GROWN & SEXY PRIDE VII**  
FT. ANTIC STUDIOS, SWEETPEA AND DJ SHANNON BLOWTORCH  
W/ MICA MAY, DYKES DO DRAG, LADIES OF LA, FEMME, DRAGGED OUT, THE VIGILANTEASE COLLECTIVE, DEVIANCE, BRKST, SISTERS OF PERPETUAL INDULGENCE  
JUN 23

**FLIP PHONE: XXL PRIDE**  
FT. VALENTINA AND MAX  
JUN 24

GO 96.3 PRESENTS  
**GO SHOW FT. MISTERWIVES: BAND CAMP TOUR**  
WITH THE GREETING COMMITTEE  
HOSTED BY MILES THE DJ  
JUN 29

JUN 30  
**MORE DRAKE NITE**  
FT. DJ BACH, DJ GREENERY, (CLOUD)

GO 96.3 PRESENTS  
**MIKE SNOW**  
WITH KLANGSTOF  
JUL 03

**POPTONE**  
(DANIEL ASH, KEVIN HASKINS, DIVA DOMPE)  
PERFORMING MUSIC FROM BAUHAUS/TONES ON TAIL/LOVE AND ROCKETS  
WITH DJ JAKE RUDH (TRANSMISSION)  
JUL 08

JUL 13  
**ESPN X GAMES AT FIRST AVENUE**  
FT. PROF AND AESOP ROCK WITH ROB SONIC  
WITH deM atlas

JUL 14  
**NICOLAS JAAR LIVE**

JUL 19  
**SUBLIME WITH ROME**

JUL 21  
**ANDREW BIRD**

JUL 29  
**MIKE STUD**

AUG 02  
**JAMES VINCENT MCMORROW**

89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS  
**THE SUBURBS**  
'HEY MUSE!' RECORD RELEASE SHOW AND 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  
WITH RYAN AND PONY, DJ JAKE RUDH (TRANSMISSION)  
AUG 04

89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS  
**SYLVAN ESSO**  
WITH FLOCK OF DIMES  
AUG 06

AUG 10  
**TAKING BACK SUNDAY**  
WITH EVERY TIME I DIE, ALL GET OUT

AUG 15  
**SHAKEY GRAVES**  
WITH DAVID RAMIREZ

AUG 22  
**SIMPLE PLAN**  
'NO PADS, NO HELMETS... JUST BALLS' 15TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR  
WITH SET IT OFF, PATENT PENDING

FIRST AVENUE AND JAM PRESENT  
**MIDNIGHT OIL**  
THE GREAT CIRCLE TOUR  
AUG 29

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## ALSO AT FIRST AVENUE

SEP 13  
**X**  
40TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

SEP 17  
**THUNDERCAT**

SEP 19  
**DEAD CROSS**

SEP 21  
**THE AFGHAN WHIGS**  
W/ HAR MAR SUPERSTAR

SEP 26  
**REVEREND HORTON HEAT, FISHBONE AND STRUNG OUT**  
W/ LOS KUNG FU MONKEYS

SEP 29  
**JUDAH & THE LION**  
GOING TO MARS TOUR  
W/ THE ACADEMIC

OCT 01  
**FUTURE ISLANDS**

OCT 20  
**RON POPE**  
W/ AGES AND AGES, THE HEART OF

OCT 26  
**HAMILTON LEITHAUSER**  
W/ COURTNEY MARIE ANDREWS

NOV 03  
**REAL ESTATE**  
W/ LUCY DACUS

## UP NEXT 7TH ST ENTRY

**THE WIND + THE WAVE**  
W/ JUSTIN KAWIKA YOUNG, THE NATIVE SIBLING  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

**EARLY EYES**  
'MINUTES' EP RELEASE SHOW  
W/ THE HAPPY CHILDREN, SASS  
THURSDAY, MAY 25

**PALLBEARER**  
W/ INTER ARMA, GATECREEPER, IOSIS  
FRIDAY, MAY 26

**HAPPYNES**  
W/ FURY THINGS, WETTER  
SATURDAY, MAY 27

**CHRIS PUREKA**  
W/ RYAN TRASTER  
TUESDAY, MAY 30

**GIRLPOOL**  
W/ IAN SWEET, SNAIL MAIL  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31

**HOOPS**  
W/ PARTS  
THURSDAY, JUNE 1

**HECKADECEMAL**  
GODS DRUGS, DATA NIGHT, ROUGH ANDERSON  
W/ VISUALS BY MACH FOX  
FRIDAY, JUNE 2

## UP NEXT TURF CLUB

**UADA, WITCHDEN, PESTIFERE, BLACKTHORNE**  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

**ERIC MAYSON**  
W/ MINA MOORE, DANCEBUMS, HIPONYMOUS  
THURSDAY, MAY 25

**FATHOM LANE**  
'ASILOMAR' ALBUM RELEASE SHOW  
W/ TABAH, MONICA LAPLANTE  
FRIDAY, MAY 26

**LITTLE FEVERS**  
7 INCH SINGLES RELEASE SHOW  
W/ GRAVEYARD CLUB, KING COLT  
SATURDAY, MAY 27

**MR. ELEVATOR**  
W/ MAGIC CASTLES, TRANSCENDENTAL STRANGERS?  
TUESDAY, MAY 30

**HA HA TONKA**  
W/ TRAPPER SCHOEPP  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31

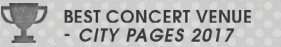
**ANAI'S MITCHELL**  
W/ FRANCES LUKE ACCORD  
THURSDAY, JUNE 1

**STEEPLEJACK**  
REUNION SHOW  
W/ LEE FAMILY CURSE, RINGOUT!  
FRIDAY, JUNE 2

**THE 19TH ANNUAL GRAND YOUNG DAY**  
SATURDAY, JUNE 3

**BEN NICHOLS (OF LUCERO)**  
SUNDAY, JUNE 4

## UP NEXT PALACE THEATRE



JUN 10  
**OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW**  
PERFORMING 'BLONDE ON BLONDE'

JUN 17  
**AT THE DRIVE IN**  
W/ LE BUTCHERETTES

JUL 16  
**ALL TIME LOW**  
YOUNG RENEGADES TOUR  
W/ SWMRS, WATERPARKS, THE WRECKS

JUL 26  
**SOCIAL DISTORTION**  
W/ JADE JACKSON

AUG 03  
**GARY CLARK JR.**

AUG 05  
**BRYAN FERRY**  
W/ JUDITH OWEN

AUG 15  
**BELLE AND SEBASTIAN**  
W/ JULIEN BAKER

SEP 07  
**CONOR OBERST**

SEP 16  
**SPOON**  
W/ TWIN PEAKS

SEP 28  
**BROKEN SOCIAL SCENE**  
'HUG OF THUNDER TOUR 2017'  
W/ FRIGHTENED RABBIT

OCT 01  
**FLEET FOXES**

OCT 10  
**PIXIES**  
W/ MITSKI

## UP NEXT OTHER VENUES

**WAVVES**  
W/ KINO KIMINO  
TRIPLE ROCK  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

**Ho99o9**  
W/ INJURY RESERVE  
TRIPLE ROCK  
FRIDAY, MAY 26

**COM TRUISE AND CLARK**  
FINE LINE  
SUNDAY, JUNE 4

**CLOUD CULT**  
NORTHROP  
FRIDAY, JUNE 9

**TUXEDO (JAKE ONE & MAYER HAWTHORNE)**  
W/ KING OTTO  
FINE LINE  
MONDAY, JUNE 12

**JAMESTOWN REVIVAL**  
W/ COLTER WALL  
FINE LINE  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

**SLOW DANCER**  
W/ SOCCER MOMMY  
ICEHOUSE  
SATURDAY, JUNE 17

**FREDDIE GIBBS**  
'YOU ONLY LIVE TWICE TOUR'  
W/ JON CONNOR, MAC IRV  
FINE LINE  
FRIDAY, JUNE 23

**STRFKR**  
W/ REPTALIENS  
FINE LINE  
MONDAY, JUNE 26

**DIRTY HEADS AND SOJA**  
W/ THE GREEN, RDGLDRN  
CABOOZE OUTDOOR PLAZA  
SATURDAY, JULY 1

**HIPPO CAMPUS W/ POLIÇA**  
W/ LOW, REMO DRIVE, J.S. ONDARA  
BAYFRONT PARK (DULUTH, MN)  
SATURDAY, JULY 8

**MICHELLE BRANCH**  
THE HOPELESS ROMANTIC TOUR  
FINE LINE  
SATURDAY, JULY 8



**rodrigo y gabriela**

**TENTH ANNIVERSARY TOUR**  
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**JUST ACROSS FROM THE PALACE THEATER**

## A-LIST



David Hamlow finds treasures in trash.

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER ATKINS

THURSDAY 5.25

### ART/MUSEUM

#### DAVID HAMLOW: MIRROR STAGE

MINNESOTA MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

One person's trash is another person's art, as you'll see in this exhibition at the MMAA. Collecting bits of cardboard and plastic from residents in the Pioneer Endicott building, where the museum is located, artist David Hamlow has created found-object sculptures and geodesic structures from materials that might have otherwise ended up in a landfill. Along with his watercolors and drawings, Hamlow's up-cycled art looks at the impact that the trash humans create every day has on the environment. The art will also evolve over the course of the show, as various participatory projects will make some of the pieces grow and change. There will be an opening reception featuring Hamlow and the show's curator, Christopher Atkins, from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, May 25. Free. 141 E. Fourth St., the Historic Pioneer Endicott, St. Paul; 651-797-2571. **Through July 30** —SHEILA REGAN

FRIDAY 5.26

### CON

#### ANIMINNEAPOLIS 2017

HYATT REGENCY MINNEAPOLIS

Lovers of anime are uniting for three days of fun this weekend. Their world is an expansive and immersive one, with fandoms ranging from kid-friendly fare to series exploring more adult themes. AniMinneapolis will celebrate it all.

There will be video-game sessions, including a Pokemon tournament, or go old-school and bust out a board game. Cheer on cosplayers at Saturday afternoon's masquerade; take in panel talks covering TV shows such as *Yu-Gi-Oh!* and kinks like yaoi (guy-on-guy romance); and make new friends at meetups covering just about any interest, including manga, Kingdom of Hearts, Lolita fashion, and J-pop. Try your hand at love at the date auction, and break the ice by taking them to Friday's ball. The evenings will also be filled with room parties, DJ dance sessions, and nerdcore concerts. Free pop, ramen, and other snacks will keep revelers sustained throughout shenanigans. For tickets and more info, visit [animinneapolis.com](http://animinneapolis.com). Noon to 1 a.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. \$40-\$52; \$110 platinum registration. 1300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis; 612-370-1234.

**Through Sunday** —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

### ART/FILM

#### GHANIAN MOVIE PAINTINGS: WEIRD, WILD, AND WONDERFUL

THE PARKWAY THEATER

In the 1980s, an industry known as mobile cinema formed in Ghana. Armed with a television, a VCR, a tape, and a generator, businesses would travel to various electricity-free villages throughout the country and host makeshift movie nights. They would screen films from Ghana and Nigeria, kung-fu flicks, Bollywood selections, and blockbuster action and comedy schlock from Hollywood. As



# THEATER

## UP: THE MAN IN THE FLYING CHAIR

PARK SQUARE THEATRE

Those unfamiliar with *Up: The Man in the Flying Chair* might go into Theatre Pro Rata's latest production expecting a wacky comedy. The storyline, after all, centers on a man named Walter Griffin, who achieved his greatest fame by ascending 16,000 feet on a lawn chair tethered to helium-filled balloons. But while this work from playwright Bridget Carpenter is not without flourishes of idiosyncratic humor, there's a suffused gravitas grounding this tale of an incurable dreamer chasing a long-lost sense of freedom. Like an artist without an outlet, Walter has never been able to recapture the intoxicating sensation of transcending the responsibilities that have come to define his middle-aged, middle-class reality. Though his wife and teenage son have shown a prior affinity for Walter's eccentric aspirations, his unreliability in the midst of personal and financial upheaval has only wrought disorder. Thankfully Theatre Pro Rata is countering the weighty subject matter with the casting of two of the Twin Cities' most charismatic performers, John Middleton and Shanan Custer, in the lead roles of Walter and his wife. Directed by Carin Bratlie Wethern, *Up: The Man in the Flying Chair* suggests that those in pursuit of lofty goals would do well to maintain an emergency landing pad. For tickets, visit [www.theatreprorata.org](http://www.theatreprorata.org). 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays, plus preview shows May 24-25; 2 p.m. Sundays. \$40-\$60. 20 W. Seventh Pl., St. Paul; 651-291-7005. **Through June 11 —BRAD RICHASON**



CHARLES GORRILL

with any business, there was a need for marketing. Stitching two flour sacks together for a canvas, artists would paint their own movie posters. The results were amazing. For *Mrs. Doubtfire*, Robin Williams in old-lady drag assumes a ninja-like pose as he slams a broom handle through someone's eye. Cujo, the killer dog, looks adorable when painted to have the body of a doberman and the head of a bloodhound. In another poster, the Terminator swims through a sea of blood and guns, the "o" in his name forming a playful heart. See these posters for yourself at Parkway Theater this weekend. Nightly movie screenings include *The Running Man* (featuring Jesse Ventura!); *The Boxer's Omen*, described as a kung-fu horror mashup with a heavy dose of psychedelia; and *The Dragon Lives Again*, a cinematic masterpiece that follows "Bruce Lee" as he goes to hell, joining Popeye to fight Dracula, James Bond, Clint Eastwood, and the Godfather. 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 8 p.m. Sunday. Movies start at 9 p.m. \$5-\$10. 4814 Chicago Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-822-3030. **Through Sunday —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

# THEATER

## 365 DAYS/365 PLAYS

PENUMBRA THEATRE

In 2002, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Suzan-Lori Parks orchestrated one of the most audacious undertakings in contemporary theater. Having already endeavored to write one play a day for an entire year, Parks compiled the resultant works into *365 Days/365 Plays*. Rather than attempting a single performance of the gargantuan piece, Parks set out to have the individual plays split among a host of companies from across the United States, each of which would stage synchronized premieres. The gambit was more than a mere stunt, however, as the diversity of geography, demographics, and performance venues underscored the crosscultural scope of the ambitious work, reflecting an America that continues to be shaped by people from all walks of life. Revisiting the work after 15 years, Full Circle Theater has entrusted 45 of the 365 plays to an ensemble cast, selecting pieces reflective of the current state of America. Co-directed by Rick Shiomi,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 ►

# FIRST AVENUE & 7th St entry

Your Downtown Danceteria Since 1970



## JAMES VINCENT MCMORROW

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2017

\$20/\$22 • 7PM DOORS • 18+ | ON SALE FRI, MAY 26 AT 10AM



## DEAD CROSS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

\$25 • 7:30PM DOORS • 18+ | ON SALE THU, MAY 25 AT 10 AM



89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS

## REAL ESTATE

WITH LUCY DACUS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2017

\$20/\$22 • 8PM DOORS • 18+ | ON SALE THU, MAY 25 AT 10 AM

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OR CALL 1-800-514-3849



**Memory LANES**

# BLOCK PARTY

**SATURDAY, MAY 27**

JC BROOKS | SARAH WHITE  
CRUNCHY KIDS | P • PL  
COLIN CAMPBELL & THE SHACKLETONS  
LADY LARK  
YOU OUGHTA KNOW 1900S DANCE PARTY  
SHANNON BLOWTORCH  
SOPHIA ERIS | DJ KEEZY

INDOOR STAGE HOSTED BY MICA MAY  
OUTDOOR STAGE HOSTED BY ANDREA SWENSSON

---

**SUNDAY, MAY 28**

DILLINGER FOUR | BIRTHDAY SUITS  
MONICA LAPLANTE | TONY PEACHKA  
LIQUOR BEATS WINTER  
CRANKSHAFT | MALAMANYA  
BLACK MARKET BRASS | THE TOXINS  
PRIVATE INTERESTS | LADY HEAT DJs  
NATO CODES LIVE BAND KARAOKE

INDOOR STAGE HOSTED BY NATO COLES  
OUTDOOR STAGE HOSTED BY IAN RANS

89.3 the current

ABSOLUT VODKA

Old Style

SUMMIT

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## A-LIST



'365' flies through many mini plays.

LKBACHMAN

### CONTINUED FROM FRIDAY ►

Martha B. Johnson, and Harry Waters Jr. (with added "cameo directors" James A. Williams, Stephanie Lein Walseth, and Lara Trujillo), *365 Days/365 Plays: A 2017 Remix* looks to present an invigorating succession encompassing everything from slapstick satire to heartrending tragedy, each examining the American psyche with an understanding forged in a common humanity. For tickets, call 1-800-838-3006. 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; 2 p.m. Sundays. \$25; \$10 students and seniors. 270 N. Kent St., St. Paul; 651-224-3180. **Through June 11 —BRAD RICHASON**

### SATURDAY 5.27

#### FOOD

### 3RD ANNUAL CRAWFISH BOIL

BENT BREWSTILLERY

For the third consecutive year, Bent Brewstillery is bringing the flavors of Louisiana to Roseville, boiling them in a pot, and serving them peel-and-eat style in the taproom. The crawfish boil is a feast, a family-friendly party, and an opportunity to check out a unique business that makes beer and gins. There will be cocktail stations serving Bent concoctions, and plenty of beer on tap. A plate of eats and a pint of brew costs \$12, with crawfish, taters, corn, and chicken and sausage jambalaya. Nordic Blonde, Scottish IPA Moar, selections from the ExperimentALES collection, and the always interesting Funked Up series (wild and sour brews) will also be for sale. The event

starts at noon, but the crawfish are in limited supply. Plan accordingly if you're stopping by this Brewstillery event. All ages. Noon to midnight. Free. 1744 Terrace Dr., Roseville; 844-879-2368. —LOREN GREEN

#### ART/GALLERY

### LIGHT GREY ART LAB: ICELAND'S HULDUFÓLK

AMERICAN SWEDISH INSTITUTE

Our collective passion for all things Icelandic continues unabated, fueled in part by the American Swedish Institute's fantastic photographic explorations of Nordic fashion in "The Weather Diaries." Now the museum is teaming up with Light Grey Art Lab for "Iceland's Huldufólk," in which the fabled unseen folk and folklore of the volcanic island are of particular interest. Trolls, fairies, and other mythical creatures embedded in the landscape of the Icelandic imagination are explored by artists who traveled there as part of Light Grey Art Lab's residency program. Prints, photography, and other works will be available for viewing and purchase. Free with admission. 2600 Park Ave., Minneapolis; 612-871-4907. **Through July 9 —CAMILLE LEFEVRE**

#### FILM

### CINEMA IN THE CEMETERY: STEAMBOAT BILL, JR.

MINNEAPOLIS PIONEERS & SOLDIERS MEMORIAL CEMETERY

There will be lots of movies to watch in various parks this summer, but cemetery screenings are a bit rarer. This Memorial Day weekend, Trylon cinema is teaming up with Friends of



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APEYRON

the Cemetery to present another film. Before the show, go on a history hunt and explore the grounds, searching for “treasure” items using your smartphone. The movie, *Steamboat Bill, Jr.*, stars Buster Keaton and starts at dusk. The burly Steamboat Bill, who needs help running his business, is disappointed when his college graduate son (Keaton), who he hasn’t seen since birth, shows up skinny and wearing a beret. Then Junior falls in love with the daughter of his rival. When a tornado hits the town, will Junior save the day? Will Steamboat Bill get over himself and learn to be a little more open-minded? You’ll have to watch to find out. Dreamland Faces will provide a live soundtrack to this silent-era classic. Drinks and snacks will also be for sale. 7 p.m. \$10. 2945 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-729-8484. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

## MONDAY 5.29

### KINK

## TWIN CITIES FETISH WEEK

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

While Minnesotans are known for being nice, we’ve also got some edge when it comes to the bedroom. This week, ditch your usual once-a-week missionary sex routine and come out for the kinkiest event of the year: Twin Cities Fetish Week kicks off Monday, and features a taste of nearly every kink, fetish, or fantasy you can imagine. From the goth-inspired Hard Mondays at the Saloon, to Ground Zero’s Forbidden Thursday featuring everything from body painting to bondage, to the Minneapolis Rubber Ball at Concord Exchange, this week is guaranteed to have something that will shock and intrigue even the most experienced connoisseurs of kink. Prices and locations vary throughout the week (there’s no cover for Hard Mondays at Saloon, but the Knights of Leather

Tournament will cost you \$190 for all three days), and everyone is invited to participate — or just casually take it in as a spectator. Find your finest latex bodysuit, dust off your paddle, get that chest waxed now, and get ready to let your kink-flag fly all week long. Find a complete schedule online at [www.facebook.com/DFT](http://www.facebook.com/DFT). Wyrms. **Through June 4 —PATRICK STRAIT**

## TUESDAY 5.30

### BOOKS

## QUINTON SKINNER

MAGERS & QUINN BOOKSELLERS

It’s the middle of the night in Minnesota when a teenage girl and her two younger brothers are woken by their father and told their mother has abandoned them. The foursome pack what they can into suitcases, pile into the car, and set out for California in search of her. That’s the compelling opening scene of *Odd One Out*, a wry novel by Minnesota Monthly’s senior editor (and former City Pages theater critic) Quinton Skinner. What begins as an ill-advised road trip becomes a convoluted drama told through the points of view of middle child Kevin, college-aged daughter Sam, and the lost-and-found mother. Along the way, hard lessons are learned. “Life is going to disappoint you,” Sam realizes. “Best know that going in, and settle for the small pleasure of irony, rather than expecting the clouds to part and meaning to reveal itself. And don’t expect too much from people, especially the ones you love. They simply aren’t capable of shouldering the burden.” What the narrative loses in momentum as it skips ahead in time it gains in depth as the family members uncover the mysterious truths of the people they thought they knew best. 7 p.m. Free. 3038 Hennepin Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-822-4611. —ERICA RIVERA

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*In The Heights*





# BAYWATCHERS BEWARE

Neither The Rock's charm nor Zac Efron's abs can keep this movie afloat



Hard bodies,  
limp jokes

FRANK MASI

BY TONY LIBERA

It was only a matter of time, given Hollywood's baffling insistence on nonstop reboots and remakes, before *Baywatch* made its way to the silver screen as a self-aware action-comedy.

The glaring stupidity of an amplified *Baywatch* concept would generally make for an easy skip, but Paramount's A-list talent wrangling, in tandem with 2012's *21 Jump Street* success, has brought out the optimist in many a moviegoer.

It shouldn't. *Baywatch* shoots for an elevated level of meta comedy, but finds itself weighed down by transplanted cop tropes and subpar humor.

The 2017 take stars American sweetheart/future POTUS Dwayne "The Rock"

Johnson as Mitch Buchannon, the character David Hasselhoff made weirdly iconic. He's king of the beach, basically a superhero, and a mentor to many — but the arrival of a Ryan Lochte type by the name of Matt Brody (Zac Efron) tests his patience. Dead bodies and dangerous drugs start washing ashore, and for some reason Mitch and company take it upon themselves to find the criminal mastermind behind these nefarious deeds and put an end to him (or her!) by way of their nonexistent beach jurisdiction.

The movie had promise, at least in its pedigree: The story credits go to, among others, Thomas Lennon and Robert Ben Garant of *Reno 911* and *The State* fame. Where it fell apart is anybody's guess. Either the screenwriters who took over

couldn't cut it or the novelty wasn't sustainable.

Johnson, Efron, and pretty much the whole cast do a serviceable job, but the script just isn't funny enough to make *Baywatch* stand out. A lot of "fucks" and full-frontal male nudity do not a great comedy make. What's more, the movie never quite figures out where to position itself: It stops short of going full-bore campy and then it drags into two-hour territory via an unconvincing police procedural plot line that takes itself a bit too seriously.

One minute Efron is cracking wise about how flawed *Baywatch's* own premise is and the next, he's earnestly trying to thwart a drug queenpin, while overcoming his own alcoholism and deep feelings of

## BAYWATCH

directed by Seth Gordon  
area theaters, opens Thursday

isolation. Of course, he has the help of his lifeguard buddies who also happen to be forensic experts and adept hackers.

Obviously, *Baywatch* could never fully commit to seriousness given the sheer goofiness of its concept, but by even dipping a toe in now and again, the movie undermines its own joke. This is one of the rare pictures where less plot and more stupidity might have actually helped. *21 Jump Street* may be the bar as Hollywood churns out these '80s/'90s remakes in the next few years — and *Baywatch* doesn't even come close. **C+**







# NO MAN'S LAND

*Refugia* travels through time without borders



DAN NORMAN

BY JAY GABLER

When Joseph Haj became the Guthrie Theater's artistic director, he wasted no time booking a major project with the Moving Company. Having previously worked with Dominique Serrand and his collaborators, Haj was excited to invite them to create a mainstage production at the theater. The result, *Refugia*, is the local artists' highest-profile Minnesota show since the 2008 dissolution of their company, Theatre de la Jeune Lune.

Serrand is credited as director and, with Steven Epp and Nathan Keepers, co-writer of the piece, which sees the Moving Company leaders collaborating with a diverse cast of performers. It's a sprawling play — or, as the company prefers to call it, an “epic journey” — that crosses continents and mixes styles as it examines lives in forced transit.

*Refugia* tells a series of stories, some literal and some symbolic, some with interlinked plots and others that are just thematically related. There are even nods to previous Moving Company shows, for the benefit of loyal fans.

The most extended narrative concerns a multiethnic present-day French couple (Orlando Pabotoy and Rendah Heywood) whose son (Jamal Abdunnasir) goes off to fight in the Syrian civil war. When the father goes to locate the son, the men find themselves in the same boat as a group of Syrian refugees trying to escape to Germany. That journey recalls the plight of a musical mid-century couple (Keepers and Christina Baldwin) whose ability to escape Russia may depend on how effectively they can explain 12-tone composition to a Soviet officer (Epp).

We also meet a young girl (Maia Hernandez and Carolina Sierra, in alternate performances) trapped in a detention center on the U.S.-Mexico border, and a polar bear locked in a sort of death-dance with ensemble member Kendra “Vie Boheme” Dennard as global warming bakes them both. The show begins and ends with Epp portraying an elderly man who's about to make that most permanent of emigrations; in an extended sequence of clowning, Keepers plays a wacky librarian who helps Epp research his itinerant ancestors.

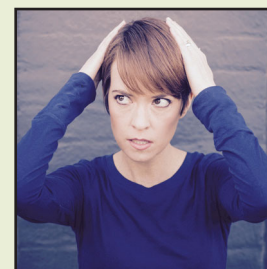
## REFUGIA

Guthrie Theater  
818 S. Second St., Minneapolis  
612-377-2224; through June 11

*Refugia* is a play of big ideas — so big that the ideas pull the focus up and away from the characters themselves. The result is a symphony of sentiment, more effective in exploring the state of refuge-seeking as a permanent human condition than in examining the particular circumstances of actual refugees. There's no doubt where the show's sympathies lie, but it may nonetheless frustrate viewers who want full-throated outrage instead of existential angst.

The piece is often gorgeous. Scenic designer Riccardo Hernández has filled the McGuire Proscenium Stage with a giant warehouse whose corrugated metal walls reflect the changing hues of Marcus Dillard's elegiac lighting. Baldwin and the ensemble often sing, animating scenes that include the most heartfelt defense of avant-garde composition you're ever likely to hear. It's a sad, elegant argument that aesthetic borders are just as artificial as political ones. **C+**

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MAY 26

**HAPPY HOUR** **TWINS GAME ROOFTOP**  
4PM - 6:30PM 4PM

**STEAKHOUSE MUSIC**  
PAUL HOLLAND/PAUL MAYASICH - 6PM - 9PM

**SAT**  
MAY 27

**STEAKHOUSE MUSIC**  
TIM PRICE - 6PM - 9PM

**LIVE BAND - NO COVER**  
POP ROCKS - 10PM - CLOSE

**SUN**  
MAY 28

**HAPPY HOUR**  
4PM - CLOSE

**MON**  
MAY 29

**HAPPY HOUR**  
4PM - 6:30PM

**TUE**  
MAY 30

**TWINS GAME ROOFTOP**  
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# STREET *Style*

**ALL THE FRILLS** Ruffles abound in Twin Cities wardrobes. **BY ELLEN LAWSON**



## TAYLOR HAGE

27, SOCIAL SERVICES, BLOGGER

### What are you wearing?

Top and pants from Zara, Jeffrey Campbell loafers, Gucci crossbody bag.

### Describe your style:

Chic street style.

### Tips on keeping ruffles from looking too over-the-top?

Keep the rest of your look simple. You want your ruffles to shine!

### What other trends are you noticing for summer?

This summer it is all about the stripes! Also asymmetrical tops and skirts.



## JUMMY THOMAS

26, DATA ANALYST, FASHION DESIGNER

### What are you wearing?

Vest suit designed by me for Saint Ola SS17 collection, ruffle sleeve top from Zara.

### Describe your style:

Modern vintage, effortlessly chic, and feminine.

### Tips on keeping ruffles from looking too over-the-top?

Pair the ruffle clothing with a fitted piece or define your waistline with a belt.

### What other trends are you noticing for summer?

Prints and bell-bottom pants.



## ZOE HENSON

22, STUDENT

### What are you wearing?

Zara shoes and top, Cheap Monday jeans, Chloe bag, B Low the Belt belt.

### Describe your style:

Fun and always changing. My wallet has a hard time keeping up with it.

### Tips on keeping ruffles from looking too over-the-top?

There's no such thing as over-the-top!

### What other trends are you noticing for summer?

Mixing bold patterns.



## DRE DEMRY

28, HAIRSTYLIST

### What are you wearing?

Borrowed cargo vest, ruffle top from Meeps Vintage in DC, jeans from B-Resale, boots from Urban Outfitters.

### Describe your style:

My style is a constant evolution, I can reinvent myself with every outfit!

### Tips on keeping ruffles from looking too over-the-top?

Balance them with your favorite basics.

### What other trends are you noticing for summer?

It's all about androgynous vibes.



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**SATURDAY, MAY 27**

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**SUNDAY, MAY 28**

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**MONDAY, MAY 29**

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thu : may 25  
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names to faces

fri : may 26  
7pm : laura and sean's movie  
and music trivia  
10pm : good night gold dust  
oh my love

sat : may 27  
7pm : trivia mafia presents  
331 drinkin' spelling bee  
10pm : hey, that's my jam  
dance party!!!  
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sun : may 28  
3-5pm : aka sunday presents:  
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mon : may 29  
8pm : the roe family singers  
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# SICK IN THE HEAD

Meet SickDaPunchLiner, Minnesota's most antagonistic rapper

BY JERARD FAGERBERG

SickDaPunchLiner:  
"My music states facts."



JERARD FAGERBERG

**Y**ou're not gonna catch SickDaPunchLiner at Soundset. Mr. Peter Parker would lose his job at Go 95.3 if he sat down with the ruthless St. Paul MC. The only way you'd ever hear him on the Current is if his entourage spammed the request line with threats of intimidation.

SickDaPunchLiner has more in common with DMX or Lil Wayne than Brother Ali. He brandishes submachine guns in his videos, talking shit with a heavily Auto-Tuned sneer, and he's flourished as an emblem of everything that MCs in our indie-rap haven have defined themselves against.

"Maybe you do backpack music or alternative hip-hop like that Atmosphere does, but that's not me," Sick says. "This is my perspective on Minnesota. Your perspective may be different, but this is the part of Minnesota that I'm in all the time."

The lyrics on Sick's 2016 mixtape *They Doubted Me* are replete with classic flyover-state inferiority, but Sick didn't grow up in Minnesota. Until he was in eighth grade, his family lived on Chicago's South Side, right by where 18-year-old rapper Lil JoJo was gunned down by a rival in 2012. After they relocated, he attended Wells Prep for two

years before transferring to High School for the Recording Arts, where he first got his hands on Magix Music Maker. The move north changed Sick's life, but Chicago had already made its mark on him.

"People are in danger all the time, and you've gotta protect yourself," Sick says of Chicago. "I see people getting hurt on the street. I see people selling different things on the street. I see people trying to protect their family. A lot of different dark things, and that makes me rap about the things I rap about."

SickDaPunchLiner's music bristles with tension and mistrust. In curt, belligerent bars, he mixes stories of his caustic childhood in Chicago with boasts about his current paper chase in St. Paul to create a slurred, unflinching reflection of life on the Twin Cities streets. It's not a side Explore Minnesota would be keen to highlight. The rhymes of Atmosphere and P.O.S (who Sick claims to never have heard of) inspire and aspire, but Sick focuses on the unseemly truths of being a young black man in a dire and largely concealed environment.

"I feel like it's a misrepresentation of Minnesota going on right now," Sick says. "People are like, 'Minnesota is nice, it's sweet,' but

then you get here, and in certain areas it's like, 'Oh my god, this is Minnesota? This looks like Chicago or Detroit.' That shit does happen here. Kids get killed at nightclubs in Minneapolis all the time. Kids get beat up in school and on the streets."

SickDaPunchLiner has made it his mission to tell the truth of his Minnesota — the car-jackings, the gangbanging, the segregation. He's Minnesota's most unwelcome champion. On "Why They Sleep (Minnesota Anthem)," Sick and collaborator 50 Tyson point pistols down the lens and throw hand signs while they rap, "We gon' put on for Minnesota." It sounds like a threat.

"People expect you to be a certain way here, and you can't be yourself," he says. "I can't talk about certain things that people go through in the struggle or violent acts that happen. Minnesota looks at that like, 'We don't want that to represent Minnesota. We're not that.'"

Sick manages a team of street rappers called WeTeam100 Promotions, which includes cold, merciless artists like Choppa Ruuso and Bossmann. The crew also boasts 50 Tyson, the autistic Minnesotan who became a viral sensation after his rudimentary bathroom freestyles landed him on

*Tosh.O*, but who has since rebranded as an audacious gangster rapper aiming diss tracks at rappers like Lil Yachty and 21 Savage.

This combative attitude doesn't jibe with North Star Staters, and Minnesota media has ignored every song SickDaPunchLiner has released, even though his last four singles averaged 28,000 YouTube views each. Like Lil Jamez, the largely disowned Minnesota street rapper who heads up the roster on Floyd Mayweather's TMT Music Group, Sick is doomed to radio obscurity for what he represents.

"I love Minnesota, but I know for a fact my market is not Minnesota," Sick says. "The music that's played here is that Atmosphere type of music, and if you're not in that lane, you get overlooked. I think I'm being overlooked as well as hundreds of other artists."

The only Midwest media outlets that'll touch SickDaPunchLiner are underground hip-hop trench sites like MinnesotaColdTV, localized hubs that feed off the over-the-top aggression of hip-hop culture. In his introductory interview with Chicago's ZackTV, Sick wears an army vest stocked with extra clips, and about five minutes in, one of his crew picks up a



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89.3 The Current and The Cedar Present  
**PERFUME GENIUS**  
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## MUSIC

loaded AR-15 and nearly fires a live round in the studio. It was perhaps Sick's most headline-grabbing escapade to date, but it barely blipped the local or national blog radar, so in order to get his makeshift label in rotation, Sick's done the least Minnesotan thing a rapper can do.

He left.


In May, Sick absconded to California to work on his follow-up to *They Doubted Me* and a distribution deal for WeTeam100. Locals usually only make this kind of business jump after a decade of grinding out shows at the Amsterdam and the Entry, but Sick's ultraviolent bent means he's aiming at a slim margin on even the national level. He has to go big out the gate, or he'll risk never busting at all.

"If your market isn't gonna accept your type of music, then you're already as big as you can be," Sick says. "My music is more like something out of the Atlanta, California, or Chicago area. Minnesota is not the

acceptance, so that's why I'm leaving."

The move to the West Coast isn't permanent — Sick has an infant daughter in St. Paul to help raise — but a summer learning the ropes in one of hip-hop's most storied battlegrounds should only drive SickDaPunchLiner further from his Minnesota peers.

There's a question of how much of SickDaPunchLiner is genuine and how much is unbridled hip-hop bravado. The dreadlocked rhymer wearing military surplus in a YouTube interview seems too cartoonish to be legitimate, and commenters on hip-hop blogs often accuse him of fronting. Sick admits that there's an element of entertainment to his music, but he insists that he's illuminating a reality.

"They call us drill rappers, street rappers, trap rappers, gangster rappers, whatever," he says. "But I look at us as more realistic rappers. At the end of my music, you're gonna get a meaning. My music states facts." 

## CRITICS' PICKS



Shemekia Copeland

© PHOTO SUZANNE FOSCHINO

### SHEMEKIA COPELAND

DAKOTA, WEDNESDAY 5.24

The daughter of late Texas guitar-slinger Johnny Copeland, whose band she joined as a teenager half a lifetime ago, Shemekia Copeland can belt it out with the authority of Big Mama Thornton or Etta James, but she also harbors a subtle pop streak that gives her melodies a contemporary tint, and she's influenced by country and rock as well. On her latest album, 2015's *Outskirts of Love*, a handful of originals written for Copeland by guitarist Oliver Wood and manager John Hahn capture her no-nonsense persona. She laments the abuse and exploitation of women on the title track, and savors revenge on "Crossbone Beach" and "Drivin' Out of Nashville," asserting in the latter that "country music ain't nothin' but the blues with a twang."

Elsewhere she skillfully interprets nuggets from Jesse Winchester, Albert King, and Jessie Mae Hemphill, with a hand from stellar guitarists Robert Randolph, Will Kimbrough, and Z.Z. Top's Billy Gibbons, who anchors a sizzling version of his band's "Jesus Just Left Chicago." 7 p.m. \$35-\$40. 1010 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis; 612-322-5299. —RICK MASON

### PERFUME GENIUS

CEDAR CULTURAL CENTER, WEDNESDAY 5.24

Though somewhat of a late bloomer, Seattle singer-songwriter Mike Hadreas, better known as Perfume Genius, has already released more quality material than plenty of other 35-year-old musicians. First emerging in 2010 with lo-fi voice-and-piano compositions featuring simple melodies and personal lyrics, Hadreas has consistently

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## MUSIC CRITICS' PICKS

expanded his sound with each new record, upping the fidelity on 2012's *Put Your Back N 2 It* and even more so on 2014's glommy *Too Bright. No Shape*, his fourth and latest album, is one of the year's best, with the glittery boom of opener "Otherside" establishing the grand ambitions of the music that follows. The explosive, triumphant "Slip Away" and the psych-pop gem "Wreath" expertly balance pop melody and tasteful but dense production, while the closing song, "Alan," is a sparse, moving ode to domestic contentment named for Hadreas' longtime partner and collaborator. Serpentwithfeet opens. 7:30 p.m. \$17-\$19. 416 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-338-2674. —MICHAEL MADDEN

## GOV'T MULE

STATE THEATRE, THURSDAY 5.25

On Election Day 2016, Gov't Mule began recording its latest album, *Revolution Come, Revolution Go*, due next month. Most of the tunes were written before votes were cast, and seething rockers like the James Gang-style opener "Stone Cold Rage" reflect the country's sharp divide, sour mood, anger, and uncertainty, rather than outlining policy specifics. Still, bandleader/lyricist Warren Haynes often hints at how he swings. "We're livin' in fear of what we don't understand," he sings on "Pressure Under Fire," a fierce blues-rock ballad punctuated by his elegant guitar lines, while the funky, jump-jazz-infected title track warns, "Chump change happens every day." Haynes, a brilliant enough guitarist to fill Duane Allman's slot in the Allman Brothers, is also a formidable grainy-textured vocalist. And throughout, as usual, the bristling Mule quartet juggles the power of Southern rock, the passion of blues and gospel, the urgency of funk, the earthiness of country, and the improvisational finesse of jazz. 8 p.m. \$51.50-\$89. 805 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-339-7007. —RICK MASON

## PALLBEARER

7TH ST. ENTRY, FRIDAY 5.26

Little Rock four-piece Pallbearer aren't just the flagship band of premier underground metal label Profound Lore — they're America's most acclaimed young doom band, period, having transcended obligatory Black Sabbath comparisons and found total control of their unique sound. They're as fully capable of all-around thunderous instrumentation as any doom band, but it's their mastery of pacing and dynamics, plus frontman Brett Campbell's exceptional singing talent, that sets them apart. Following a promising 2010 demo, two LPs, and a 2016 EP that included Sabbath and Type O Negative covers, the band released their third and latest album, *Heartless*, in March. It's their most consistently diverse release, exemplified by the masterful, 12-minute

"Dancing in Madness" with its Floyd-ian intro, acoustic strums, and surrounding guitar heroics. Campbell is also singing even better than ever, enhancing the album's more accessible moments, including the Mastodon-evoking "Cruel Road." With Inter Arma, Gatecreeper, and IOSIS. 18+. 7:30 p.m. \$15. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —MICHAEL MADDEN

## MICHAEL KIWANUKA/CLOVES

FIRST AVENUE, FRIDAY 5.26

In contrast to his 2012 debut, *Home Again*, a collection of modest singer-songwriter fusions of retro soul, folk, and blues, Michael Kiwanuka's new *Love & Hate* is an epic whose complex, multi-textured arrangements mirror the demons addressed in the lyrics. Kiwanuka takes on personal and societal challenges while negotiating haunting conundrums — "Love and hate, how much more are we supposed to take?" — with philosophic restraint. "Black Man in a White World" addresses his own identity as a London-born son of Ugandan immigrants, but also traces the tragic arc of the African diaspora with handclaps, field-holler-like vocals, blues moans, and a call-and-response chorus morphing into Marvin Gaye-like declarations against funky guitar and syncopated strings. There are still retro elements to Kiwanuka's music, but the production, chiefly by Danger Mouse, offers a rich context, juxtaposing grainy roots and cinematic drama while Kiwanuka's dark, soulful voice laments existential loneliness. Cloves, aka dramatic Australian singer-songwriter Kaity Dunstan, opens. 7 p.m. \$18-\$20. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —RICK MASON

## SOUNDSET

STATE FAIRGROUNDS, SUNDAY 5.28

For the first time in its 10-year history, the upper tier of the lineup for Rhymesayers' hip-hop festival is dominated by Southern rappers. The top slot is occupied by young Houston dynamo Travis Scott, who's long since killed the notion that he's a "shameless biter" (to quote an infamous Deadspin piece), coming into his own artistically and making headlines with his live performances. The next two Southerners are Atlanta legends with much larger discographies: Gucci Mane, who emerged from a nearly three-year prison stay in 2016 without losing a step, and trap music originator T.I., who's become increasingly political. The fest is also still booking plenty of Minnesota's finest, with obligatory performances by Atmosphere, Brother Ali, and P.O.S as well as Soundset debuts by ZuluZuluu and Nazeem & Spencer Joles. With Ms. Lauryn Hill, Mac Miller, Lil Uzi Vert, Pusha T, D.R.A.M., Ty Dolla \$ign, and many, many more. 11 a.m. \$98. 1265 Snelling Ave. N., St. Paul; 612-377-0044. —MICHAEL MADDEN



# Breathless

Can I have my partner sign a waiver before dangerous, kinky sex?

**I** have two female sex partners who want to be breath-play dominated. I know the practice is dangerous, and I employ the rules of consent and communication a pro-Dom escort friend taught me. But is there a legal release document we could sign that protects consenting adults in the event of an accident or death?

RUMINATING ABOUT CONSENSUAL KINKS

**Restricting someone's** air intake is always dangerous, RACK, and while we all too often hear about people dying during solo breath play, aka "auto-erotic asphyxiation" (an activity no one should engage in ever), we rarely hear about someone dying during partnered breath play. (I recently discussed partnered breath play with Amp from Watts the Safe-word, a kink-friendly sex-ed YouTube channel. Look up Episode 533 at [savagecast.com](http://savagecast.com).)

That said, RACK, someone can't consent to being strangled to death by accident.

"The lawyers in my office discussed this, and we agree that there is no way to 'waive' or 'consent to' criminal negligence resulting in substantial bodily harm or death," said Brad Meryhew, a criminal-defense attorney who practices in Seattle. "I don't think you'll find any lawyer who would draft such an agreement. Even if an agreement were executed, it is not going to constitute a complete defense if something goes wrong. There are principles of criminal liability for the consequences of our decisions, as well as public-policy concerns about people engaging in extremely dangerous behaviors, that make it impossible to just walk away if something goes wrong." Another concern: Signing such a document could make breath play more dangerous, not less. "A person who had such a waiver might be tempted to push the boundaries even further," said Meryhew.

And now the pro-Dom perspective...

"As consenting adults, we assume the risks involved in this type of kink," said Mistress A Elena, a professional Dominant. "But if you harm your partner or they become scared, shamed, shocked, or, even worse, gravely injured, it's the Dom's problem. At

any time, the submissive can change their mind. Some cases have been classified as 'rape' or 'torture' afterward, even though consent was initially given. It's our job as Dominants/Tops/Leads to make sure everyone is safe, consenting, and capable."

*I'm a 32-year-old guy, my gal is 34, and we've been together for two years. Every time we get it on or she goes down on me (though not when I eat her out), my mind wanders to fantasies involving porno chicks, exes, or local baristas. A certain amount of this is normal, but I'm concerned that this now happens every time. When I'm about to come, I shift my mind back to my partner and we have a hot climax, but I feel guilty. Advice?*

GUILTY OVER  
NEBULOUS ECSTASY



Dan Savage

**I've been asked** what biases advice columnists have. Do we favor questions from women? (No, women are just likelier to ask for advice.) Are we more sympathetic to women? (Most advice

columnists are women, so...) Are we likelier to respond to a question that opens with a compliment? (Of course.) But the solvable problem is our biggest bias. Some people write in with problems that they'll need an exorcist, a special prosecutor, a time machine, or some combo of all three to solve.

Your letter, GONE, is a good example of the solvable problem—a letter likelier to make it into the column—and, as is often the case, the solution to your problem is right there in your letter. You're able to "shift [your] mind" back to your partner when you're about to come, and when you eat her out, your mind doesn't wander at all. My advice: Make the shift earlier/often and engage in more activities that force you to focus (like eating her out). Problem solved.

P.S. A lot of people allow their mind to wander a bit during sex. If it keeps you hard/wet/game and isn't perceptible (if you don't start mumbling coffee orders), your partner benefits from your wanderings.

[mail@savagecast.com](mailto:mail@savagecast.com)

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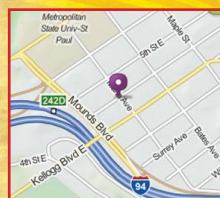
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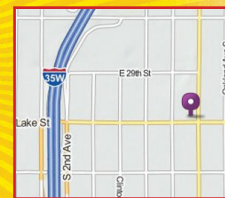
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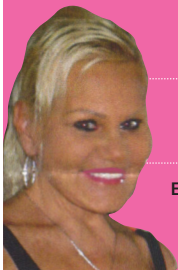
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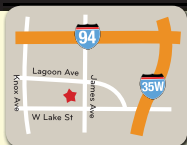
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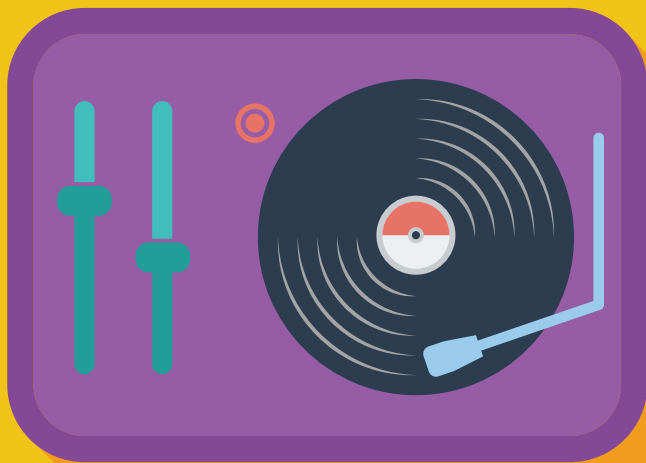
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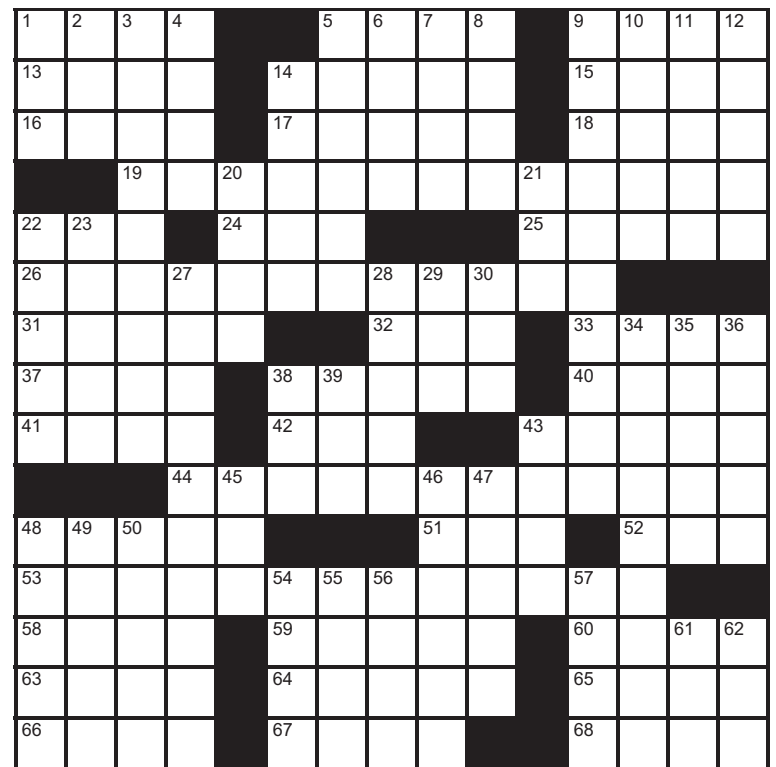


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## CROSSWORD



### A-GAME

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

#### Across

- 1 \_\_\_\_ John's  
5 Swashbuckler's drink  
9 Quick shots  
13 Country superstar Jackson  
14 Herded cattle  
15 Diez less dos  
16 Attended  
17 Whiteboard stand  
18 Sign of use  
19 What happens when a line drive goes up the middle?  
22 Its last champ was the Lake Erie Monsters: Abbr.  
24 Night before  
25 Puts a spell on  
26 Put two guys on Elgin?  
31 Seated yoga pose  
32 Glimmer of hope  
33 Pulls the plug  
37 Charging station juice: Abbr.  
38 Josh of Queens Of The Stone Age  
40 Butcher's stock  
41 Game played on a map  
42 "That's what \_\_\_\_"  
43 Must  
44 Artist with a light touch?  
48 Sprung from the can  
51 Not getting out of bed, perhaps  
52 React to a rom-com, say  
53 Soho stories that are read with feeling?

- 58 Zipcar selection  
59 Next to  
60 Fiery gemstone  
63 Wallow in, as in a funk  
64 Deep pink shade  
65 Christian in Hollywood  
66 "Show Boat" composer  
67 Females in wool coats  
68 \_\_\_\_ Accords

#### Down

- 1 Pekingese dog?  
2 Schwarzbier alternative  
3 Wind instruments named for a Greek god  
4 Against  
5 2nd best  
6 Thorny flower  
7 High, as a guess  
8 Some toothpastes  
9 Pop song character who's "as blind as he can be"  
10 Scaler's tool  
11 Terrible twos, e.g.  
12 Tender spots  
14 Dig deeply (into)  
20 Marine predators  
21 Comic Margaret  
22 Steven of the only good lineup of Guns N' Roses  
23 "Silicon Valley" fictional company with the slogan "Making Good Business Great"  
27 Concentrate on work

- 28 Heavy mail, e.g.  
29 Potato's kin  
30 Caustic stuff  
34 "Non? Non?"  
35 Match.com user  
36 Plot line  
38 Greetings  
39 Praise with feet  
43 Tour de France hurdle  
45 Big fuss  
46 Benched player's spots?  
47 Make right  
48 Swigger's container  
49 Google Maps line  
50 "Door's open!"  
54 We all have one  
55 Did poorly  
56 Audition spot  
57 Gray wolf  
61 Laundry brand  
62 2010 Best Supporting Actress

#### Last Week's Answer





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